

**Regular Finance Committee Meeting
City Of Virden
City Council Chambers
Thursday August 27th, 2026**

Meeting called to order by Alderman Donley at 7:02 pm.

Alders present: Bertolino, Neighbors, Donley, and Matrisch

Absent: Boster, Carter, and Karrick

Also present: Mayor Murphy, City Clerk Jon Myint and Bookkeeper/Treasurer Barry Liss

Audience in attendance: None

Comments from Audience: None

Topics:

1. Approval of Finance Committee Meeting minutes of July 23rd, 2026

Motion: made by Matrisch seconded by Donley to approve the Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of July 23rd, 2026. **Motion:** passed with all in favor

2. Treasurer's Report: Barry Liss reported that corporate had a loss of \$24,000 which was offset by a gain in water, so the total loss was \$12,500, also in July there were three paydays (normally there are two). Bank balances are at \$885,000 as of 31 July. In August the six month transfer payment of \$42,000 for the meters from water to corporate was made. There is still about \$1,065,105 in CDs remaining. Two of the CDs will be maturing soon one in October and one in November. July's grocery tax was \$1,994 and August was about \$2,000. The franchise payment came in, and it is approximately \$19,900. DCEO grant had a \$6,000 credit that was turned around and issued back out. Police are right on schedule with their budget. Net income for water was \$11,470 for the month and \$30,818 for the last three months.

3. Elected Officials Employment Compensation:

Discussion: on Elected Officials not getting an increase in compensation for approximately 15 years. The discussion primarily focused on a \$50.00 monthly increase for the Alderperson's compensation.

A \$100 monthly increase for the Mayor and \$125 increase for the City Clerk. Increases will take effect on May 1st, 2027, and will only be for those elected in 2027 and 2029.

Recommendation: made by Donley seconded by Matrisch to take to the Council a motion to increase the Alderperson's compensation by \$50.00 per month starting at the next election cycle in 2027. **Recommendation:** passed with all in favor.

Mayor Murphy will have Attorney Craven draft up the ordinance.

Issue to be put on the next City Council Agenda.

4. CD Renewal: Topic canceled as CD does not mature till 09-05-2027

5. Bookkeepers Wage Increase: Discussion: Present wage is \$6,300 per year, an increase of 3% would be \$189 additional per year. **Recommendation:** made by Donley seconded by Mayor Murphy to take to the Council a motion to raise the Bookkeeper's salary by 3%, with the effective date of May 1st, 2026. **Recommendation:** passed with all in favor.

6. Finalize Budget: Bary Liss reported that total revenue for the fiscal year is estimated at \$2,042,542 based largely on IML projections. State sales tax is running 4.8% higher than expected. State income tax based on the 2020 census showing the population of Virden at 3231 people is \$181.36 per capita. Replacement tax is budgeted with a 13% increase.

Bertolino expressed that he did not feel that it was right the way the \$84,000 payment for the water meter loan being paid by water to corporate was being counted as revenue.

Mayor Murphy spoke on the proposed FY26/27 budget. After adding in the pay increases, the IMRF, Social Security taxes, and several other increases, the projected profit is \$109,000. There were several items that were not originally included in the budget as they were unforeseen expenses e.g., HVAC system and the emergency sirens. Mayor Murphy noted that the Director of Operations was concerned about his budget on streets and alleys showing that it was \$100,000 less than last year. Police budget is \$66,000 more than last year.

Motion: made by Mayor Murphy seconded by Matrisch to take the budget to the Council for approval. **Motion:** passed with all in favor

Additionally:

1. Mayor Murphy Spoke about the insurance claims after the big storm. The claims only total 8 to \$9,000 the city's deductible is \$10,000. It was discovered the estimate for the pole at the East Park was not included. Karen will contact the

insurance company and asked that the claim be left open, so an estimate for the pole can be included, and time may be given for the Director of Operations and the Chief of Police to verify that all items related to storm damage has been turned into the office manager.

2. Mayor Murphy spoke on the final walk thru of the North End Drainage Project

Issues:

a. Quality of flooring in the field drain box. Contractor will fix floor on the inlet side. Bertolino would like more detailed information on the concrete repair.

b. Fencing on concrete box in the field needs more supports and barbed wire at the top. Benton's response was barbed wire at the top of the fence was not a design flaw and was not designed into the project due to the box not being close to the road. It was noted boxes that are close to the road and have utilities in them do have barbed wire on top. Bertolino inquired if the city could get some insight from the insurance company. Adding more supports to the fence and barbed wire at the top will cost about \$4185. Benton Engineering is willing to provide a credit of \$2500 from the cost of construction observation and will provide the city a \$750 invoice for the review of the North Mac softball fields engineering plans. Refund from Benton Engineering totals \$3,200. Fence modifications requested by the city will be handled as a change order.

Another walk thru is planned with Mayor Murphy, Garry Etter, and a representative from Benton Engineering on 08-27-26, and again the above issues will be discussed.

Motion: made by Donley seconded by Matrisch to enter into Executive session at 8:30 for to discuss personnel. Motion passed with all in favor

Motion: made by Donley seconded by Matrisch to approve Executive Session Meeting Minutes of 07-23-26. **Motion:** pass with all in favor.

Additionally: Reducing the lien on the 911 North Nobel property

Discussion: The 911 property is on the tax sale list (Virden has already demolished the house). A neighbor has inquired if they purchased the property would the city reduce the lien (\$2,500) by half. Under advice of Attorney Craven this is not possible.

There were concerns on the rising cost of the lien due to Public Works mowing if the property does not sell.

Bertolino will contact the neighbor and give them an update.

Discussion: on the possibility of the city buying the property, however, questions arose on how the lien would be handled. Mayor Murphy will consult Attorney Craven on the process if the city buys the property.

Motion: to adjourn made by Matrisch seconded by Donley at 8:02 PM.

Motion: Passed with all in favor

Jon Myint
City Clerk

Date Approved: